

Board Agenda Item
January 25, 2006

PRESENTATION - 1

Fairfax County Park Foundation's Transfer of Funds to Fairfax County Park Authority

A member of the Park Foundation Board will present a check to the Fairfax County Park Authority in the amount of \$188,921.55, as follows:

Breakdown of Transfer

Open Space:	\$24,016.54
Bright Futures:	67,549.03
Clemyjontri:	86,355.98
Trail Fund:	11,000.00
TOTAL TRANSFER	\$188,921.55

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

None

STAFF:

Michael A. Kane, Director

Timothy K. White, Chief Operating Officer

Robert J. Brennan, Executive Director, Fairfax County Park Foundation

Board Agenda Item
January 25, 2006

PRESENTATION – 2

Cross County TrailFest

A presentation on the upcoming Cross County TrailFest will be presented to the Board.

TrailFest is a day long, Park Authority event that will celebrate the opening of the Cross County Trail, as well as showcase the Park Authority's programs and services. TrailFest will be held on May 6, 2006.

The presentation will include the staff training opportunities and planning structure as well as the day's activities and other opportunities associated with the event.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

None

STAFF:

Michael A. Kane, Director

Timothy K. White, Chief Operating Officer

Board Agenda Item
January 25, 2006

ADMINISTRATIVE - 1

Adoption of Minutes – January 11, 2006 Park Authority Board Meeting

ISSUE:

Approval of the minutes of the January 11, 2006 Park Authority Board meeting .

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Director recommends approval of the minutes of the January 11, 2006 Authority Board meeting.

TIMING:

Board action is requested on January 25, 2006.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

ENCLOSED Documents:

Attachment 1: Minutes of the January 11, 2006, Park Authority Board meeting

STAFF:

Michael A. Kane, Director

Timothy K. White, Deputy Director

Nancy L. Brumit, Administrative Assistant

**Fairfax County Park Authority
Board Meeting
January 11, 2006**

The Chairman convened the meeting at 7:32 p.m. at Park Authority Headquarters, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22035.

Board Members

Harold L. Strickland, Chairman
Joanne E. Malone, Vice Chairman*
Frank S. Vajda, Secretary-Treasurer
Edward R. Batten, Sr.
William G. Bouie
Kevin J. Fay
Kenneth G. Feng
Harry Glasgow
Georgette Kohler
George E. Lovelace
Gilbert S. McCutcheon
Winifred S. Shapiro

*Board Member Absent

Staff

Michael A. Kane, Director
Timothy K. White, Deputy Director
Nancy L. Brumit, Administrative Assistant

Charlie Bittenbring
Elisa Lueck
Cindy Messinger
Miriam Morrison
Judy Pedersen
Lynn Tadlock

Seema Ajrawat
Ray Alexander
Mike Baird
Nick Duray
Barbara Gorski
Kirk Holley
Lynn Johnson
Jatinder Kaur
Dennis Knudson
Jill Latham
John Lehman
Barbara Nugent
Kay Rutledge
Don Sweeney
Sue Tibbetts
Bethany Timmes
Ted Zavora

Guests: Neighbors of Margaret K. White (Park)

SWEARING IN CEREMONY – Reappointment of George E. Lovelace

Mr. Strickland introduced John T. Frey, Clerk to the Circuit Court of Fairfax County, who administered the Oath of Office to George E. Lovelace.

George E. Lovelace was reappointed to serve as the Member-At-Large Representative on the Park Authority Board. Mr. Lovelace's term will expire on December 31, 2009.

DRAFT MINUTES

AGENDA CHANGES

Mr. Strickland asked that ADMIN 1 Resolution Honoring Thaddeus Zavora upon His Retirement and ADMIN 2 Honoring Dennis Knudson upon His Retirement be heard prior to P-1 2006-2010 Strategic Plan. **There were no objections from the Park Authority Board.**

NOTE: Later in the meeting, Mr. Strickland cancelled CLOSED SESSION – Adoption of Closed Session Minutes and considered the Closed Session Minutes November 11, 2005 and December 14, 2005 in Public Session. (Board Members had previously received and reviewed the Closed Session Minutes.)

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

ADMIN-1 Resolution Honoring Thaddeus Zavora upon His Retirement (with Presentation)

Mr. Vajda **MOVED** the Park Authority Board approve the resolution for Mr. Thaddeus (Ted) D. Zavora upon his departure from the Park Authority; **SECONDED** by Mr. Bouie and **APPROVED** with Ms. Malone being absent.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Kane read the Resolution and Mr. Strickland presented the Resolution to Mr. Zavora.

Ted thanked everyone in attendance for the recognition and stated that it really meant a lot to him. He said that after 26 years, it is difficult to distill into a couple of thoughts all the experiences one goes through at a workplace like this. There are two thoughts that come to mind; first, there are a lot of things about one person in the resolution that are all in the past tense. Ted stated that everything we do is about 'we.' It is the present and the future, where we are going that is really important. Ted said 'we' because it's the people that he works with, the people you don't see at these meetings like Jatinder Kaur, Mike Baird, Lynn Johnson, Sue Tibbets and Jill Latham, the people that do things together every day. That's what makes this important, doing it together, the work with the Board and with staff.

Secondly, Ted stated that his background is in philosophy and he also has a degree in planning. Sometimes he gets philosophical about things. Ted stated that one thought that always comes to mind looking around the room is that there are people from all around the United States and different countries that they may have been born in and yet we are all in one room for one reason.

DRAFT MINUTES

The obvious one is that we all have great park interest, either active recreation, passive recreation or preservation. There is an undercurrent that motivates all of us, and he believes that it is service. With that, Ted publicly thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve.

On behalf of the Park Authority Board, Mr. Strickland wished Ted good luck in his retirement.

ADMIN-2 Resolution Honoring Dennis Knudson upon His Retirement (with Presentation)

Mr. Vajda **MOVED** the Park Authority Board approve the resolution for Mr. Dennis Knudson upon his departure from the Park Authority; **SECONDED** by Mr. Bouie and **APPROVED** with Ms. Malone being absent.

PRESENTATION

Prior to the presentation, Mr. Kane recalled that when he first worked at Lake Fairfax in 1979 Dennis was one of the first employees he had met. He was the maintenance supervisor. Dennis was the guy that knew where everything was. Lake Fairfax had a number of buildings where a variety of items were stored; if you needed something you went to Dennis. When Mr. Kane started at Lake Fairfax, he knew nothing about managing a pool. The pool had a gas chlorine system, which was a fading technology which the Health Department eventually banded from use. Every spring Dennis started that system and was exposed to the danger associated with it. Dennis would sacrifice himself to do that. Dennis was taken to the hospital at least twice for getting gas chlorine in his lungs. This is the kind of person Dennis is -- Dennis would rather sacrifice himself for the safety of other employees.

Dennis stated that when he started a number years ago there were a number of places you could hide, especially at Lake Fairfax. It was one of the greatest experiences of his life, just learning how to get by, how to fix things, make things work and keep things running. He always felt one could do anything here as long as you were willing to learn. There were many times that guys would come to do something electrical or work with refrigeration and he would stop what he was doing just to watch them and then later go finish what he was doing – just so he would learn. Dennis noted that he likes to work. He works at home. He works on the side and he used to work for the Park Authority. Without appreciation from the people you are working for there would not be much point. Dennis stated that this has been the only job he ever had, the primary focus for most of his life.

On behalf of the Park Authority Board, Mr. Strickland wished Dennis good luck in his retirement.

PRESENTATION

P-1 2006-2010 Strategic Plan

Elisa Lueck presented an update on the 2006-2010 strategic planning process, to include information on deliverables and associated timeline.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- ADMIN-1 Resolution Honoring Thaddeus Zavora upon His Retirement (with Presentation) – This item was considered at the start of the Board meeting.**
- ADMIN-2 Resolution Honoring Dennis Knudson upon His Retirement (with Presentation) – This item was considered at the start of the Board meeting.**

ADMIN-3 Adoption of Minutes – November 9, 2005 and December 14, 2005 Park Authority Board Meetings

Mr. Bouie **MOVED** the Park Authority Board accept the minutes of the November 9, 2005 and December 14, 2005 Park Authority Board meeting; **SECONDED** by Mr. McCutcheon and **APPROVED** with Ms. Malone being absent.

Mr. Strickland noted that in his copy of the December 14, 2005 Park Authority Board minutes there was a copying error which omitted page 3.

ADMIN-4 Approval – Modification to Resolution for Acquisition of Conservation Easement and Purchase Options for Salona (DuVal Properties)

Mr. Fay **MOVED** the Park Authority Board approve the:

(i) the administrative change to the resolution for the acquisition of the conservation easement and purchase options for Salona, to remain consistent with the terms of the contract; and

(ii) the Park Authority Board reaffirm that all other approvals, authorizations, directions, delegations and conclusions of the resolution are still in effect and are hereby ratified; and

(iii) The resolution as modified by this action is hereby ratified and confirmed.

The modification to the resolution, paragraph 4. Details of the Salona Promissory Notes, paragraph (ii) is as follows (page 3 of Attachment 1):

(ii) The interest rate for each semi-annual installment maturity will be determined on the date the Salona Promissory Notes are issued based on the Municipal Market Data (MMD) General Obligation Yield on uninsured ~~triple~~ **double**-A bonds for 1 to 20 year maturities on such date;

(BACKGROUND:

The Board approved the resolution for the acquisition of the conservation easement and purchase options for the conservation easement area (approximately 41 acres) and the 7.8 acre parcel containing the historic house on Salona (DuVal properties) on September 14, 2005. The Salona Purchase and Sales Contract for the conservation easement and purchase options specified under paragraph 1. (B) Semi-Annual Installments that the balance of the consideration (\$12,900,000) would be paid with two nonassignable promissory notes, each in the amount of \$6,450,000, with the interest rate scale for each installment maturity determined by the Municipal Market Data (MMD) General Obligation Yield on uninsured double-A bonds for the 1 to 20-year maturities at the time of Settlement. The resolution stated, under paragraph 4. Details of the Salona Promissory Notes, paragraph (ii), that the interest rate was based on the Municipal Market Data (MMD) General Obligation Yield on uninsured triple-A bonds for 1 to 20 year maturities. The change to the resolution is needed to make it consistent with the Salona Purchase and Sales Contract.)

The MOTION was **SECONDED** by Mr. McCutcheon and **APPROVED** with Ms. Malone being absent.

There was no discussion on this item.

ACTION ITEMS

A-1 Renaming of Frying Pan Park to Frying Pan Farm Park

Mr. Bouie **MOVED** the Park Authority Board approve the renaming of Frying Pan Park to Frying Pan Farm Park in accordance with Policy 106 Naming of Parks, as presented to and reviewed by the Resource Management Committee on December 14, 2005; **SECONDED** by Mr. Feng and **APPROVED** with Ms. Malone being absent.

DRAFT MINUTES

There was no discussion on this item.

INFORMATION ITEMS

I-1 Release of 2006-2010 Cultural Resource Management Plan for Public Comment

This item was reviewed by the Resource Management Committee on December 14, 2005 and was approved for submission to the Park Authority Board.

The Board reviewed the item regarding Release of 2006-2010 Cultural Resource Management Plan for Public Comment. No action was necessary. There was no discussion on this item.

Since there were no objections from the Park Authority Board, staff will begin the public comment process to obtain feedback on the draft plan from the public, from partner and peer organizations, and from county, state and federal agencies.

I-2 Policy 508 Length of Service Pass Benefit Criteria

The Board reviewed the item regarding Policy 508 Length of Service Pass Benefit Criteria. No action was necessary. There was no discussion on this item.

CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

- **Nominating Committee**

Mr. Strickland reported that he had asked Mr. Batten to Chair the Nominating Committee for election of officers for 2006. Mr. Strickland also asked Ms. Kohler, Mr. Feng, Mrs. Shapiro, Mr. Glasgow and Mr. McCutcheon to serve on the Nominating Committee. Mr. Strickland requested the Nominating Committee to bring the slate of officers forward at the January 25, 2006 Park Authority Board meeting. **There were no objections from the Park Authority Board.**

- **Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA)**

Mr. Strickland shared a note from Bill Dickinson, Chairman of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, about the relationship that has developed between the Park Authority and the Regional Park Authority. Mr. Dickinson was very appreciative of the joint efforts put forward with recent projects.

- **Note of Appreciation from Supervisor Gross**

Mr. Strickland reported that he had also received a note from Supervisor Penny Gross thanking the Park Authority for the annual park pass noting that she and her husband put the passes to good use.

- **Annual Board of Supervisors / Park Authority Board Joint Meeting**

Mr. Strickland reminded the Board that the annual joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors and the Park Authority Board would take place on February 27, 2006 at 8:30 a.m. in room 232 at the Government Center. Mr. Strickland requested Mr. Kane to provide a list of potential agenda items for discussion at the Park Authority Board meeting on February 8, 2006. Mr. Strickland indicated that he would like to emphasize stewardship and the potential bond program. He would also like staff to include a montage of photos that include park events in which each supervisor has participated.

- **Cross County Trail Ribbon Cutting**

Mr. Strickland expressed his appreciation for the Board's participation in the Cross County Trail ribbon cutting ceremony that took place December 10 at the Accotink Stream Valley Park. A number of staff and supervisors also participated. Mr. Strickland thanked Ms. Kohler for being the master of ceremonies.

- **Park Authority and Park Foundation Holiday Reception**

Mr. Strickland reported that the holiday reception given by the Park Authority and the Park Foundation at Dranesville Tavern was a very pleasant event. Mr. Strickland thanked Cindy Messinger, Karen Lindquist, Cindy Jordan, and Zane Stivers for an outstanding job. The ambiance, the outstanding food, the period-dressed people and the music really added to the event. Mr. Strickland noted that events held at the historical sites are outstanding.

- **Welcome to Neighbors of Margaret K. White (Park)**

Mr. Strickland welcomed the neighbors of Margaret K. White (Park), annotating that if he were to ask Norman Rockwell to paint a picture of citizens attending a Board meeting it would be them. Mr. Strickland expressed his appreciation to the neighbors for attending the Board meeting.

DIRECTOR'S MATTERS

- **Walk-on Field Use Committee Recommendation**

Mr. Kane distributed a copy of a memo from County Executive Anthony H. Griffin dated January 9, 2006 to the Board of Supervisors RE: Update on Implementation of Recommendations Made by the Walk-on Use Athletic Fields Committee. Mr. Kane reported that the memo summarizes where we are to date. Staff understands that in the FY07 budget the Department of Community and Recreation Services and the Department of Management and Budget are addressing some of the resource questions we have had regarding how this is going to be communicated and enforced on all athletic fields for both parks and schools.

- **Annual Board of Supervisors / Park Authority Board Joint Meeting**

Mr. Kane reiterated the February 27, 2006 date for the annual joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors and the Park Authority Board at 8:30 a.m. in room 232 at the Government Center. It is also a Board of Supervisors' meeting day, therefore, the meeting will last one hour. Mr. Kane reported that the County Executive will release his budget at this Board meeting.

- **Joint EQAC and Park Authority Board Meeting**

In December, the Park Authority Board requested that staff work with EQAC to schedule a joint meeting. Mr. Kane reported that staff is in the process of doing so.

- **Burke Lake Park Acquiring New J.P. Huntington Replica Locomotive #343 (Miniature Train)**

Mr. Kane reported that this spring Burke Lake Park will begin miniature train operations with a brand new J.P. Huntington replica locomotive # 343, replacing # 62 that served from 1967 to 2005. Passenger cars from the original train are currently being renovated and retrofitted to bring them into compliance with today's safety standards. During the past two months agency staff has identified a number of significant mechanical shortcomings with these passenger cars that will need to be addressed at this time. Installation of the required air brakes to each individual car, in addition to painting and other structural improvements are being accomplished in an effort to have the train operations in peak performance for the upcoming season. Staff recommends these costs be drawn from Fund 371 in the amount of \$104,500 to cover the necessary mechanical alterations, painting and transport of the passenger cars.

- **Tawny Hammond Receives Springfield Chamber of Commerce Award**

Mr. Kane reported that on Thursday, December 15, 2005 the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce awarded Lake Accotink Park Manager, Tawny Hammond, the 2005 Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Public Service Award, which is given to an employee of Fairfax County government "who has performed beyond the 'call of duty' for the benefit of the

community.” Since 1997, Tawny has sought to bring the park to the community and the

community to the park to the benefit of both. This is evident in her commitment to the Park Authority mission statement and values. She has increased the number of programs, classes and events to over 65 and in turn, more than doubled Lake Accotink Park's revenue. Tawny initiated the expansion of interpretive programming at Lake Accotink Park to gently inform visitors, many of whom are simply coming to recreate, that history happens everywhere. She further demonstrates her commitment to the park and the community by participating on the Community Resource Team, a committee of Fairfax County government employees from a number of agencies working to find effective ways to combine resources and expertise to solve challenges in the community. Her willingness to form partnerships has greatly benefited all parties involved and has resulted in a number of successful projects including Raven Quest, a free stewardship and outdoor recreation-focused camp for teens formed with Fairfax County Department of Community and Recreation Services and Fairfax County Police Department.

- **Dori Kauffman – Recipient of Special Olympics of Virginia's Coach of the Year Award**

Mr. Kane reported that the Board of Directors of Special Olympics of Virginia announced the selection of Dori Kauffman as recipient of the Coach of the Year Award for 2005. The award recognizes Dori who "...gave athletes a chance to alter their lives, helped transform communities and helped change minds and hearts to ones of acceptance."

Dori signed on in 1989, when the Park Authority needed a coach to add swim training for Special Olympic hopefuls. The Park Authority was looking for someone with competitive experience who would organize a true training program similar to the practices conducted at RECenter pools for high school swim teams. It was immediately apparent she had a knack for connecting with young people who have special needs. That was 16 years ago when Dori was 21 years old. She is now a U.S. Masters swimmer and coach and still works with teenagers and young people with mental disabilities, and it is apparent she does it very well.

The award will be presented to Dori at an upcoming luncheon sponsored by the Virginia Farm Bureau Insurance Company.

- **2005 Land Conservation Awards**

Mr. Kane reported that the 2005 Land Conservation Awards are slated for presentation on January 20, 2006 in rooms 4 and 5 in the Fairfax County Government Center at 10 a.m. Among the winners will be the Park Authority, recognized under special projects in the erosion and sediment control category for work at Lake Fairfax Park.

The award honors excellence in environmental conservation by developers, designers, site superintendents and contractors whose projects best demonstrate excellence in erosion and

sediment control design and implementation. It also recognizes a commitment to tree preservation and replacement in Fairfax County.

The project is Lake Fairfax Park Core Facilities: Phase I Construction. The scope of work includes new accessible marina facilities, Boardwalk, stairs and accessible ramps. The contract for \$1.68 million was awarded in March 2005 to Desbuild Incorporated of Hyattsville, Maryland. The anticipated completion is in March of this year.

- **Cub Run RECenter Receives Special Award**

Mr. Kane reported that the Community Appearance Alliance of Northern Virginia has been presenting special awards for projects that merit particular special recognition for improving the overall appearance of the community and the Northern Virginia region. This year, the Alliance's Board of Directors voted unanimously to present a special award for Cub Run RECenter. The special award ceremony will take place on Thursday, January 12, 2006 at 2 p.m. at the Northern Virginia Regional Commission office located in Fairfax.

- **Retirement Luncheon**

Mr. Kane stated that Ted Zavora is retiring after 26 years of dedicated service to the Park Authority. In recognition of his many contributions to the Park Authority, the Planning and Development Division is hosting a retirement luncheon on Tuesday, January 24, 2006 at Frying Pan Park's Ellmore Farm facility. The event begins at noon and the cost per person is \$15. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP by Tuesday, January 17. The point of contact is Jill Latham 703-324-8617. We hope you will join us as we roast Ted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE RECORD

NOTE: No committee minutes were entered FOR THE RECORD at this meeting. Committee minutes are entered FOR THE RECORD during the second Park Authority Board meeting each month.

BOARD MATTERS

- **Joanne E. Malone**

Ms. Malone was absent.

- **Frank S. Vajda**

Mr. Vajda thanked Mr. Strickland for recognizing the folks in the gallery. Mr. Vajda thanked the honored neighbors of Mrs. Margaret K. White (park) for coming to the meeting and taking an interest in the Board's proceedings.

Mr. Vajda reported that he and Sandy Stallman paid a courtesy call on Mrs. White in December and showed her a couple pages of the draft horticultural studies. Mrs. White is 99 years-old and

DRAFT MINUTES

still going strong.

On behalf of himself, Bo White and Supervisor Gross, Mr. Vajda thanked Ted Zavora for the incredible job he has done. He has come to the rescue a number of times. Ted is a fantastic guy.

- **Gilbert S. McCutcheon**

Mr. McCutcheon thanked Ted Zavora for the work he had done. He wished everyone a good and prosperous New Year, especially this Board.

- **Winifred S. Shapiro**

Mrs. Shapiro wished everyone a Happy New Year.

With regard to Mr. Griffin's memo to the Board of Supervisors that Mr. Kane distributed earlier, Mrs. Shapiro stated that it sounds as if the Park Authority Board had adopted a new policy, which it has not. The Park Authority Board has not held any public hearings, nor has it voted on it yet. Mrs. Shapiro is concerned that this will create a fait accompli.

- **Kenneth G. Feng**

Mr. Feng thanked staff for the outstanding holiday event. Mr. Feng stated it is a great way to use the agency's cultural resources and would like to see more of these or similar types of events to bond with the community and to introduce them to our facilities.

Mr. Feng stated that he is sorry that Ted Zavora chose to retire. Mr. Feng feels that Ted is one of the most outstanding staff members that he has worked with over the years. He admires Ted's can do spirit. Ted never let him down, never said 'no' to him, which is unheard of for someone that is the money person. Ted was always capable of finding funding for his projects. Mr. Feng thanked Ted on behalf of himself and his constituents.

- **Kevin J. Fay**

Mr. Fay also thanked Ted for an outstanding job.

Mr. Fay wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked staff for a great month of work on the events, including the Cross County Trail. After the ceremony he, Chairman Connolly, and Mr. Bouie hiked the trail for nearly an hour. During the hike Chairman Connolly suggested that the holiday reception be held at one of the agency's historical sites.

Echoing Mr. Feng's comment Mr. Fay stated would like to see more events held at the historic sites for these purposes; however, future events should be organized earlier. These events allow the Board members not only to bond, but also to showcase the agency's

properties. It would be advantageous to move the event to various magisterial districts throughout the county. He suggested holding an event during the summer months, holding similar events twice a year while being budget conscious.

Mr. Fay thanked Cindy Messinger, Cindy Jordan and Barbara Gorski for their help in organizing the event.

Mr. Fay thanked Judy Pedersen for her work with the Cross County Trail event and with the Interpretive Trail from Riverbend to Great Falls in December.

Mr. Fay offered thanks and kudos to Elisa Lueck, Nancy Brumit and Jeff Snoddy for the electronic agendas. The suggestion offered by another Board member for laptops may not be in the budget. He did recommend that the agency pay particular attention to constant attention to technology upgrade now that the agency has started on this road. Mr. Fay noted that his laptop died over the holidays and he had to download the data to his computer in his office, but it did offer him the opportunity to review the materials quickly. He stated that this will continue to expand and will continue to save paper and make for a more efficient operation for all in the coming year.

- **Edward R. Batten, Sr.**

Mr. Batten stated that he really admires and respects Ted Zavora's professionalism tremendously. He indicated that he will miss Ted, but more importantly, he likes him.

Mr. Batten wished Ted well in whatever his future endeavors are, and expressed hope that he will get to see Ted from time to time.

Mr. Batten thanked Elisa Lueck, Nancy Brumit and Jeff Snoddy for bringing the Board members into the 21st century as it applies to technology and hopes that this process will continue.

Mr. Batten expressed regret for not attending the holiday reception; however, he was able to have a reunion with his family for the first time in 33 years over the holidays. He stated that he would have loved to have attended the reception; however, to be able to bring in the New Year with his family will be something he will remember for the rest of his life.

Mr. Batten indicated that the next event is organized with some advance planning so that his wife can also attend and meet the people with which he spends so much time.

As liaison to the Park Foundation, Mr. Batten reported that the Foundation is doing some fantastic work and that it is having a retreat on Saturday, January 14, 2006 at Elmore Farm. He hopes that the results will enrich and enhance all of the experiences going forward in the New Year. One issue that will be addressed is diversifying the Park Foundation Board.

Mr. Batten asked the members of the newly appointed Nominating Committee to remain after the Board meeting to discuss a couple of items. He noted that the Nominating Committee will have a slate of officers by the January 25, 2006 Board meeting.

He extended a very blessed and Happy New Year to all.

- **Georgette Kohler**

Ms. Kohler thanked everyone for being so kind upon the unexpected death of her sister.

Since the holiday reception, Georgette Kohler reported that she had an opportunity to spend some time with Chairman Connolly and his wife. The Chairman is just thrilled with the Cross County Trail and how well the event went and is looking forward to the May events. Both Chairman Connolly and his wife told her what a lovely event the reception at Dranesville Tavern had been and how relaxing it was.

Ms. Kohler stated that she was expecting to see the Sully Woodlands master plan sometime near the end of December and is wondering when it would be available. In response, Mr. Strickland stated that the plan is being reviewed and would be available in the near future. He also noted that staff will be providing a briefing on the Cub Run/Bull Run watershed study and how the Sully Woodlands plans will tie into the watershed study on Monday, January 16, 2006 at the West County Citizens' Association.

Ms. Kohler wished everyone a Happy New Year.

- **George E. Lovelace**

Mr. Lovelace reported that on January 18, 2006 the Athletic Council will have its meeting, which will be primarily pointed toward a recommendation or selection of a review of applications for turf fields. There are six applications and this meeting should aid in the selection of fields. The Council is expected to have its final recommendation at the end of January 2006.

Mr. Strickland noted that he, Tim White and Mike Kane met with Mark Meana and Ralph Wills earlier in the day to obtain information to make the selection process successful.

DRAFT MINUTES

Mr. Lovelace noted that during the Christmas holidays he and his wife went to Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, to participate in the effort to help clean up that area. Mr. Lovelace commented that if anyone had an opportunity, the privilege, to go to that area to work with these people one would have no regrets. The thing that struck him most was that no one had any negative feelings about themselves or their conditions. Everyone appeared to be upbeat. The progress that has been made during the past four months has been slow. There are houses that once stood where only the steps to the door remain. He had gone to help build a roof for a person and to help clean houses that were filled with debris. There were a number of organizations in the area there to help with the clean up and rebuilding.

Mr. Lovelace wished everyone a very happy, prosperous, and beneficial 2006.

- **Harrison A. Glasgow**

Mr. Glasgow reported that Monday, January 16, 2006 is the Annual Festive Lobby Day in Richmond. The Chairman of EQAC and he are going as private citizens to pursue water issues.

Mr. Glasgow reported that he and Mr. Lovelace sit on the Board of the Community Appearance Alliance, which is affiliated with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission. The organization's function is to reward those organizations, private, commercial and governmental that strive to make their presence in the county a more pleasantly appealing and good-looking community. The award day is tomorrow, Thursday, January 12, 2006 at 2 p.m. As Mr. Kane mentioned earlier, Cub Run RECenter is one of the recipients.

Mr. Glasgow reported that one of the very first people he met at the Park Authority Board meetings was Ted Zavora. He was the first parks person he worked with as a member of the Green Team that gathers to promote the park bonds. Ted was the guy that gave him the first impression of the Park Authority that put him on the road that brought him where he is today. Mr. Glasgow stated that he did not know how the agency could keep Ted short of kidnapping him. Mr. Glasgow believes that the agency needs to keep Ted as a consultant, or someone you do not let out of the room or whatever. Ted will be a very hard person to replace. While we like to say that no one in government is irreplaceable, Ted comes as close as anyone he has worked with in government for nearly 40 years.

- **William G. Bouie**

Mr. Bouie thanked Ted Zavora and Dennis Knudson for their years of service. He stated that he was sure that all the members of the Board have been touched by Ted's and Dennis' work over the years.

DRAFT MINUTES

Following up on the Cross County Trail, Mr. Bouie stated that it was a tremendous event. Ms. Kohler did a tremendous job as mistress of ceremonies. Mr. Bouie reported that after the ceremony, he, Chairman Connolly and Mr. Fay hiked the trail, and Chairman Connolly was very complimentary to the Park Authority.

Mr. Bouie thanked Elisa Lueck, Nancy Brumit and Jeff Snoddy for placing the committee and Board packages on the website; it is nice to be able to go to one source to read, highlight, note and print just what he needs. He was able to gain a whole room in his house by not having the paper stacks.

Mr. Bouie reported that a week and a half ago he received a request from Supervisor Hudgins to appear on her television show, which is televised throughout the county. Supervisor Hudgins dedicated the February show to parks. The taping took place one week ago. Forty-eight hours before the taping her staff sent him a list of 12-15 questions that he turned over to Judy Pedersen for her assistance. Within 24 hours, he received an abundance of material that he could use. Mr. Bouie thanked Judy Pedersen, Lynn Tadlock and staff for their assistance.

Mr. Bouie noted the need for diversity on the Park Foundation Board and stated that Mr. Batten as liaison would work with the Foundation to reach this goal. Mr. Strickland stated that Mr. Batten and the Park Foundation has the full support of the Park Authority Board in its diversity efforts.

Mr. Bouie reported that the largest countywide celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is held in the Reston Community beginning on Sunday afternoon with a commemorative walk from Lake Anne Center to the Hebrew Congregation. There is also an afternoon concert on Sunday. There is a full day of activities beginning at 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, January 16, 2006 at the Reston Community Center in Hunters Woods. Mr. Bouie invited any and all to participate in the ceremonies.

Mr. Bouie wished everyone a Happy New Year and asked everyone to enjoy Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and what it represents.

OTHER MATTERS

- **Salona Acquisition Completed**

Mr. Fay reported that the Salona transaction was completed during the holidays. Mr. Fay noted that he attended one meeting, but Kay Rutledge was working around the clock to obtain signatures and to complete documentation. It is the single largest real estate

transaction accomplished by the county. This is something we will all be proud of from here on. Both Supervisor DuBois and Chairman Connolly are aware of the Salona transaction. Mr. Fay thanked Kay and everyone that worked on this project throughout the holiday period.

CLOSED SESSION was cancelled.

OTHER ACTIONS

Acceptance of Closed Session Minutes Dated November 9, 2005 and December 14, 2005

Mr. Vajda **MOVED** the Park Authority Board accept the Closed Session Minutes dated November 9, 2005 and December 14, 2005; **SECONDED** by Mr. McCutcheon and **APPROVED** with Ms. Malone being absent. There was no discussion on this item.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:48 p.m. Mr. Vajda **MOVED** that the Park Authority Board meeting be adjourned; **SECONDED** by Mr. McCutcheon and **APPROVED** with Ms. Malone being absent.

Frank S. Vajda
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes Approved at Meeting
on

Michael A. Kane, Director

Park Authority Board Minutes prepared by

Nancy L. Brumit, Administrative Assistant

DRAFT MINUTES

Board Agenda Item
January 25, 2006

ADMINISTRATIVE - 2

Approval - Resolution Honoring Bruce McLeod Upon the Conclusion of His Term as Chairman of the Fairfax County Park Foundation Board (with presentation)

ISSUE:

Approval of a resolution to honor the service and accomplishments of Bruce McLeod upon the conclusion of his term as Chairman of the Fairfax County Park Foundation Board.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Director recommends approval of the resolution for Mr. McLeod upon the conclusion of his term as the Chairman of the Fairfax County Park Foundation Board.

TIMING:

Board action is requested on January 25, 2006.

BACKGROUND:

Mr. McLeod has served on the Park Foundation's Board of Directors since its inception in 2001. He went on to serve as Chairman of the Board beginning in January 2004. Mr. McLeod has provided strong and effective leadership to the Board.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Resolution

STAFF:

Michael A. Kane, Director

Timothy K. White, Deputy Director

Robert J. Brennan, Executive Director, Park Foundation

Judith A. Pedersen, Public Information Officer

WHEREAS, Bruce McLeod, a founding member of the Fairfax County Park Foundation's Board of Directors, began his service to the Foundation on July 13, 2001, was elected by the Fairfax County Park Foundation Board as the Vice Chair at the first meeting of the Board held at Dranesville Tavern, and was elected as Chairman of the Fairfax County Park Foundation Board on January 7, 2004; and,

WHEREAS, during his tenure he provided strong and effective leadership, worked closely with the Foundation's Board of Directors and staff to facilitate the transition from one executive director to another, leveraged his contacts in the community to secure significant funding for the Bright Futures campaign, and has made personal financial contributions in support of the Foundation and parks in Fairfax County; and,

WHEREAS, under Mr. McLeod's leadership, the Foundation successfully completed its first financial audit, increased the number of members on the Foundation's Board, and assisted the Foundation in providing grants totaling over \$758,000 to the Fairfax County Park Authority; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McLeod was re-elected to the Foundation Board and will continue to serve through July 2007;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Fairfax County Park Authority Board that it expresses appreciation and thanks to

Bruce McLeod

for dedicated and outstanding contributions to the Park Foundation and the citizens of Fairfax County.

Adopted by the Fairfax County Park Authority Board on January 25, 2006

Frank S. Vajda
Secretary-Treasurer

Harold L. Strickland
Chairman

Board Agenda Item
January 25, 2006

ACTION - 1

Approval – Advertisement of FY 2006 Fee Proposal and Public Comment Meeting Date

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Director recommends approval to advertise both the proposed fee changes and notification to hold a public comment meeting concerning the proposed fee changes on February 15, 2006 as presented to and reviewed by the Joint Park Services and Resource Management Committee on January 11, 2006. Changes to the FY 2006 Proposed Fee Adjustments have been made as discussed at the January 11, 2006 Committee meeting.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Proposed Fee Adjustments FY 2006

Proposed Fee Adjustments

FY 2006



Fairfax County Park Authority

Contents

Organization of the FY 2006 Fee Proposal..... 3

Current Situation – System-wide Considerations 3

Proposed Fee Adjustments

 Business Activity License Fee..... 5

 Picnic Shelters/Areas and Amphitheater Rental..... 6

 Synthetic Turf Athletic Field Rental – Ellanor C. Lawrence Park 8

 RECenters 9

 Golf 13

 Lakefront Parks..... 17

 Ellmore Farm Center 20

 Riverbend Park 21

Organization of the FY 2006 Fee Proposal

Organization of the FY 2006 Fee Proposal follows the format first introduced in 2004. A section entitled 'Current Situation – System-wide Considerations' describes the important factors in the Park Authority's overall operational environment that had an effect on the composition of this year's fee adjustment proposal. This overview is followed by separate sections for each of the various business areas for which fee adjustments are being proposed. Each of these sections first outlines important situational factors specific to that business area that had an effect on the development of the fee adjustment proposal. This is then followed by a summary of the fee adjustments proposed for that business area in FY 2006.

Current Situation – System-wide Considerations

- Guidelines and projections from the Comprehensive Fund Management Plan typically form an important framework for proposed fee adjustments. Important considerations from this plan are as follows:
 1. Sufficient revenue must be produced annually to meet long-term debt service obligations for park facility revenue bonds, which are repaid with revenues from user fees. The current obligation includes annual debt service payments of slightly more than \$ 1 million annually plus a requirement that the Revenue Fund maintain a level of net revenue before debt service sufficient to meet 125% of annual debt service payments.
 2. The Park Revenue Fund will likely be challenged to meet the Board's desired \$825,000 set aside target for the Park Capital Improvement Fund due to the impact of the Cub Run and Laurel Hill start-ups prior to revenues reaching stabilized levels at those two facilities.
 3. Revenue growth needed to sustain the Park Revenue Fund is assumed to come from multiple sources, including new facility introductions, program growth and fee increases. And as a matter of principle, comparatively small and regular fee increases are preferred over less frequent, but larger increases.
- Inflation spiked in 2005 after a number of years of low annual growth. Growth in the Washington-Baltimore consumer price index for 2005 is currently projected at 4.1% for the year, compared with 2.8% for last year. In September, the last month for which data were available, the rate of CPI growth rose 4.9%. Annual growth in the CPI had hovered between 2.4% and 2.8% annually for the previous four years (2001-2004). The combined CPI growth rate for 2004 and 2005 was 6.9%. First quarter utility costs for revenue fund facilities (excluding Cub Run and Laurel Hill) were up 13% from last year. Much of this impact was in natural gas expenditures, which increased 99%.

- General market conditions for the Park Revenue Fund's main sources of use are mixed, but cautiously optimistic. Overall RECenter demand remains strong – up nearly 6% from FY 2004 – FY 2005. While the addition of a new facility at Cub Run contributed to the growth in demand, attendance also increased significantly at the established RECenters. National indicators for fitness activity, a key source of RECenter demand, also remain positive.

Outdoor activity remains largely dependent on weather conditions. Water Mine revenues were up 13% during the 2005 season, due to unusually hot and dry weather during the summer months. The golf industry outlook shows a leveling off of rounds played at the national level, and locally, about 8% less rounds were played at Park Authority courses in 2005 compared to the previous year because of poor weather in the first and third quarters (spring and fall). Golf business is strongest in the mid to upper end of the market. Play remains strong at Twin Lakes where prime time weekend and holiday tee times at both courses are booked well in advance of play, and initial response to Laurel Hill has been enthusiastic.

- Fee increases in most major admission areas were delayed last year to reduce the impact of the first phase of the senior discount adjustment approved in the FY 2005 fee process. If implemented, subsequent phases of the adopted senior discount program would go into effect in FY 2007 and FY 2009, and it is assumed that across-the-board fee adjustments in primary admissions areas would not be proposed in those two years for the same reason. That leaves the current year and FY 2008 as the windows for addressing general fee adjustments in major RECenter and golf admissions categories.

Business Activity License Fee

Current Situation

- The current wording of the Business Activity License Fee in the fee schedule has led to some confusion amongst the public as to whom the fee applies and in some cases, how it is applied.

Proposed Fee Adjustments

The following wording change is proposed where the Business Activity License fee appears in the fee schedule to clarify its applicability and the conditions under which it will be adjusted.

1. Current Wording in Fee Schedule:
 - Greater of \$50 or 15% of Gross Sales
2. Proposed Wording for Fee Schedule:

No person shall sell or make an offer to sell goods or services or conduct business activities within a park without the express written permission of the Park Authority. If approved, such permission is granted through issuance of a Business Activity License, the fee for which is the greater of \$50 or 15% of Gross Revenue. Gross revenue includes sales of any food and beverages, products or services, registration fees, participation fees, donations, and ticket sales generated by an activity, clinic, workshop, program or any other event, including fundraising activities to support charitable services. The Gross Revenue may be adjusted by first deducting any Park Authority facility rental fees paid in conjunction with the activity/event.

Picnic Shelters/Areas and Amphitheater Rental

Current Situation

- Use and demand is evaluated at the conclusion of each picnic season to identify potential future additions or deletions to the inventory of reservable picnic areas. In FY 2005, demand for reservable picnic areas and shelters continued to grow with many more requests than could be accommodated. There were 1,288 rentals in FY 2005. Smaller areas in parks with limited amenities were relatively underutilized. Demand was greatest for large reservable areas (capacity 100 or more) with a broader array of amenities.
- Analysis of usage and demand at the most desired facilities indicated that higher fees would not negatively impact usage. The recommended fee increases would add revenue, yet still be competitive with other picnic rental areas.
- The amphitheater rental fee structure currently has different rates for county and non-county residents. This structure is different than the prime, non-prime pricing approach used for picnic shelters/areas. It is not unusual for amphitheater renters to also request rental of a shelter or picnic area, and the difference in fee structure between the two facility types has caused customer confusion. Staff recommends eliminating this confusion by altering the amphitheater fee structure to reflect the prime and non-prime fee distinction used for picnic shelters/areas.
- Staff recommends adding two new areas to the existing inventory: picnic areas at Frying Pan Park and Martin Luther King Park.
- A discount for "long term" rental picnic groups is proposed as an addition to the fee schedule. Several renters have been booking the same location for multiple weeks throughout the season.

Proposed Picnic Shelters/Areas and Amphitheater Rental Fee Adjustments

Based on the conditions described above, proposed picnic shelters/areas and amphitheater rental fee adjustments for FY 2006 are as follows.

1. Picnic shelters/areas. Proposed adjustments to existing picnic shelter/area fees and the addition of two new picnic areas are based on the demand/supply analysis conducted at the end of the 2005 season.

	CURRENT FEE		PROPOSED FEE	
	Prime	Non-Prime	Prime	Non-Prime
Burke Lake Shelters A, B, & C	\$300	\$176	\$325	\$220
Lake Accotink McLaren Sargent Shelter	\$325	\$200	\$325	\$220
Lake Accotink Large Lakeside Shelter	\$325	\$200	\$325	\$220
Lake Accotink Small Shelter	\$85	\$66	\$100	\$78
Lake Accotink Picnic Areas 1&2	\$85	\$66	\$85	\$70

	CURRENT FEE		PROPOSED FEE	
	<u>Prime</u>	<u>Non-Prime</u>	<u>Prime</u>	<u>Non-Prime</u>
Lee District Shelter	\$85	\$66	\$85	\$70
Nottoway Picnic Area	\$100	\$78	\$125	\$100
Roundtree Park Picnic Area	\$85	\$66	\$85	\$70
Frying Pan Park Picnic Area	New Fee		\$70	\$55
Martin Luther King Park Picnic Area	New Fee		\$70	\$55

2. Amphitheater rental. The following adjustments to the amphitheater rental fee structure are proposed to achieve consistency with the picnic shelters/areas fee structure. Note that the cost of a four-hour rental during non-prime time under the proposed fee is equivalent to the current county rate. Since most county resident rentals occur in non-prime times, the proposed fee will not represent a price increase for most county resident renters.

	CURRENT FEE		PROPOSED FEE	
	<u>County</u>	<u>Non-County</u>	<u>Prime</u>	<u>Non-Prime</u>
Burke Lake, Ellanor C. Lawrence, Lake Fairfax:				
Four hour rental	\$40	\$80	----	----
Additional hour	\$10	\$20	----	----
Hourly rate (four hour minimum required)	----	----	\$15	\$10
Lee District, Mason District:				
Four hour rental	\$80	\$160	----	----
Additional hour	\$10	\$ 20	----	----
Hourly rate (four hour minimum required)	----	-----	\$ 25	\$20

3. Multiple use discount for picnic shelters/areas and amphitheater rental. A discount of 10% of the picnic rental fee will be applied to “long term” picnic rental groups who submit a request for and rent a picnic area, shelter, amphitheater or gazebo for a minimum of five (5) days in the calendar year. A “multiple use” rental will be defined as any individual or group that submits a picnic rental application requesting a minimum of five (5) rental dates. Groups who do not request a minimum of five rental dates on the same request will not be granted long term status, and thus will not be eligible for receiving the 10% discount.

Synthetic Turf Athletic Field Rental – Ellanor C. Lawrence Park

Current Situation

- In 2004, the first Park Authority synthetic turf athletic field was constructed at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. The rental fee structure shown below was adopted during the FY 2005 fee process and went into effect November 21, 2005.

	<u>Prime Time</u>	<u>Non-Prime Time</u>
<u>Without Lights</u>		
1 hour rental	\$ 60	\$ 50
90 minute rental	\$ 80	\$ 70
<u>With Lights</u>		
1 hour rental	\$ 100	\$ 75
90 minute rental	\$ 140	\$ 120

- It was anticipated that 60 and 90 minute rental requests would be most common when the rental fee structure was established. In practice, multi-hour requests have been more common than anticipated. There has been some confusion between customers and staff regarding the appropriate fee for those desiring rentals that are longer than 90 minutes.
- Increased utility costs have prompted the need to shift to a uniform rate for the use of lights at all times.

Proposed Fee Adjustments

- Proposed changes to the synthetic turf athletic field rental fee structure include: elimination of the 90 minute rental and non-prime time fee categories and adjustment of the one hour rental rates as shown below.

	<u>Current Fee</u>		<u>Proposed Fee</u>
	<u>Prime</u>	<u>Non Prime</u>	
One hour rental with lights	\$100	\$ 75	\$ 115
One hour rental without lights	\$ 60	\$ 50	\$ 90
90 minute rental with lights	\$140	\$120	Eliminate
90 minute rental without lights	\$ 80	\$ 70	Eliminate

RECenters

Current Situation

- RECenters are heavily used and remain in high demand. Attendance at established facilities (excluding Cub Run) grew 4.9% between FY 2005 and 2004, pass sales increased 3.2% and total revenue and pass revenue both increased by more than 6%.
- RECenter general admission and pass fees were last adjusted in 2004. Little opportunity likely exists to adjust RECenter admission fees next year given the plan to phase in long-term fee adjustments approved in FY 2005.
- The Washington-Baltimore consumer price index has increased 6.9% since the last RECenter admission adjustments were implemented in 2004. Recognizing that improved profitability comes from multiple sources, including program growth and cost control, the proposed RECenter admission fee adjustment is targeted at 5%.
- Increased inflation has been reflected most readily in RECenter utility costs. Compared to last year, first quarter utility expenses (for all facilities except Cub Run) increased 14% with natural gas expenditures up 104%.
- A comparative analysis of admission fees with those of other local public providers showed that RECenter list prices are at the top of the market. While this would imply little opportunity to raise rates, it must be recognized that the RECenters rely on price discounting to a greater degree than other operators, which lowers the effective rate users pay. 70% of FY 2005 leisure fitness pass revenue was derived during sale periods where discounts ranged up to 17%. To illustrate the savings, a 12-month in-county adult pass during last year's Healthy Heart sale sold for \$455.25, compared with a regular list price of \$548.50.
- Several notable service improvements were implemented in 2005 that noticeably improve RECenter value to the customer. These include the opening of Cub Run RECenter and full implementation of the Exercise Your Options (XYO) program. Cub Run offers expanded fitness facilities and the Park Authority's first indoor leisure pool. XYO, the benefit that allows passholders to also participate in selected fitness classes, is now offered to all RECenters except George Washington. Facility improvements have also been completed this fall at South Run RECenter and are scheduled for spring completion at George Washington RECenter.
- Improved facilities at South Run field house have resulted in dramatic growth in use of the facility. The number of primary renters grew from three to nine and the number of rental hours from 646 to 1,300 between FY 2004 and FY 2005. Growth in organized field sports and year-round sports training in the region will fuel continued demand for indoor sports fields.

Proposed RECenter Fee Adjustments

Based on the conditions described above, proposed RECenter fee adjustments for FY 2006 are as follows.

1. General admission and pass fees. An across-the-board 5% increase is proposed for all general admission and pass fee categories. As recommended in the previous two approved admission fee increases, smaller more regular fee increases, such as the one proposed, should be implemented to achieve cost recovery targets.

	CURRENT FEE		PROPOSED FEE	
	<u>Base</u>	<u>Discount</u>	<u>Base</u>	<u>Discount</u>
<u>Daily</u>				
Adult	\$ 8.25	\$ 6.20	\$8.70	\$6.50
Youth/Student	\$ 8.25	\$ 4.55	\$8.70	\$4.75
Senior (Mon-Fri)	\$ 8.25	\$ 4.55	\$8.70	\$4.75
Senior (Sat/Sun/Hol)	\$ 8.25	\$ 6.20	\$8.70	\$6.50
Family	\$ 23.70	\$ 13.40	\$25.00	\$14.00
<u>Discount Fast Pass</u>				
Adult	\$ 188.50	\$ 131.75	\$198.00	\$138.50
Youth/Student	\$ 188.50	\$ 103.65	\$198.00	\$109.00
Senior	\$ 188.50	\$ 103.65	\$198.00	\$109.00
<u>Monthly</u>				
Single Adult	\$ 87.55	\$ 61.30	\$92.00	\$64.50
2 Person Adult	\$ 137.00	\$ 95.80	\$144.00	\$101.00
Dependent	\$ 21.65	\$ 15.15	\$23.00	\$16.00
Youth	\$ 87.55	\$ 48.15	\$92.00	\$51.00
Senior	\$ 87.55	\$ 48.15	\$92.00	\$51.00
2 Person Senior	\$ 137.00	\$ 75.35	\$144.00	\$79.00
Family	\$ 162.75	\$ 113.55	\$171.00	\$119.00
<u>6 Months</u>				
Single Adult	\$ 435.70	\$ 304.75	\$458.00	\$320.00
2 Person Adult	\$ 684.95	\$ 478.85	\$719.00	\$503.00
Dependent	\$ 108.15	\$ 75.70	\$114.00	\$79.50
Youth	\$ 435.70	\$ 239.65	\$458.00	\$252.00
Senior	\$ 435.70	\$ 239.65	\$458.00	\$252.00
2 Person Senior	\$ 684.95	\$ 376.70	\$719.00	\$395.00
Family	\$ 811.64	\$ 567.80	\$852.00	\$596.00
<u>12 Months</u>				
Single Adult	\$ 783.85	\$ 548.50	\$823.00	\$576.00
2 Person Adult	\$ 1,231.90	\$ 861.90	\$1,294.00	\$905.00
Dependent	\$ 194.70	\$ 136.30	\$205.00	\$143.00
Youth	\$ 783.85	\$ 431.10	\$823.00	\$453.00
Senior	\$ 783.85	\$ 431.10	\$823.00	\$453.00
2 Person Senior	\$ 1,231.90	\$ 677.55	\$1,294.00	\$712.00
Family	\$ 1,460.55	\$ 1,022.00	\$1,534.00	\$1,073.00

2. RECenter room rental fees. Revenue recovery on room rentals is a challenge. Citizen demand for room rentals is strong, but revenue recovery on private room rentals is minimal when compared with competing uses for classes and programs. A small increase in room rental fees will offset some of the disparity in cost recovery between these uses and thereby help to preserve RECenter ability to deliver this high-demand public service. These rates were last adjusted in 2000. A \$10.00 per hour increase is proposed for rooms up to 2,000 square feet in size. A \$15.00 per hour increase is proposed for rooms over 2,000 square feet.

RECenter Room Rental (Per Hour)

	CURRENT FEES	PROPOSED FEES
<u>Room Size</u>		
300-600 sq ft	\$30	\$40
601-1000 sq ft	\$35	\$45
1001-1500 sq ft	\$45	\$55
1501-2000 sq ft	\$60	\$70
2001+ sq ft	\$75	\$90

3. Mt. Vernon Ice Rink Rental. Staff recommends a 10% increase in the hourly ice rental rate last adjusted in 2004. Comparative analysis of rinks in northern Virginia and suburban Maryland shows that Mt. Vernon's hourly ice rental fee is currently 18% lower than average. The proposed change still leaves Mt. Vernon's rate significantly below the market average. Further adjustment in the ice rink rental rates will be considered during next year's fee review process, providing some time for rental groups to adjust to this year's proposed increase.

Mt. Vernon – Ice Rink Rental Per Hour

	CURRENT FEES	PROPOSED FEES
Base Rate	\$ 220	\$ 242
Discount Rate*	\$ 200	\$ 220

*Available with proof of County residency.

4. South Run Field House Rental. Staff recommends an adjustment to the full field house rental rates based on improved facility quality and increased demand, elimination of the non-profit discount to be more consistent with the rest of the fee schedule and elimination of the non-prime fee category due to lack of demand during those times.

South Run RECenter – Field House Rental, Per Hour

	CURRENT FEES	PROPOSED FEES
Full Field House, Base Rate*	\$ 80	\$ 120
Full Field House, Non-Profit Groups*	\$ 64	Eliminate
½ Field House	\$ 52	\$ 78
Non-Prime, Full Field House:		
Base Rate	\$ 60	Eliminate
Non-Profit Groups	\$ 48	Eliminate
Non-Prime, Half Field House:		
Base Rate	\$ 40	Eliminate
Non-Profit Groups	\$ 32	Eliminate

*Fees currently designated as prime time.

5. RECenter Racquetball Court Rental Fee – 10 Hour Pass. Staff recommends the following adjustment to racquetball court rental fees.

RECenter Court Rental Fees

	CURRENT FEES	PROPOSED FEES
10 Hour Pass	\$ 20	\$ 25

Golf

Current Situation

- The current industry outlook shows a leveling off of rounds played at the national level. Rounds play has been erratic, fluctuating up and down based on weather conditions. In the mid-Atlantic region rounds played are currently down 1% for the calendar year over 2004. Over the last few months, however, the outlook has been more optimistic. Total rounds played in the mid-Atlantic were up 9% in July, 6% in August and September rounds are forecast to report higher than September 2004.
- Park Authority play mirrors the Mid-Atlantic picture with variable weather conditions greatly influencing total rounds played. Poor weather in the 1st and 3rd quarters of FY 2005 led to an 8% decrease in rounds played for the year. In addition to the influence of weather, there exist other pressures in the local market including additional courses coming on line and increased discounting strategies. It is too early to determine what effect the opening of Laurel Hill Golf Club will have on play on our existing courses.
- Data from course surveys in the local market indicates that daily fee operators are anticipating raising fees slightly after many resisted increases over the past year. Some courses indicated that they will hold fees at the current rate. Some courses that aggressively discounted their fees during non-prime times are looking to scale this practice back after not realizing additional rounds or increased revenues.
- Limited membership options are going through a bit of a transition; as some daily fee providers are contemplating scaling back some of the benefits, such as the inclusion of carts.
- In response to general market conditions, only selected adjustments to greens fees are recommended in this year's fee proposal. Increases in prime time fees are necessary to cover rising costs and are seen as viable during these busier time periods. Increases to selected non prime time fees are also being recommended. These fee adjustments, along with improved weather, and continued efforts to build non-prime play through promotions and discounting should help golf to achieve its current revenue goals.
- During the first quarter of FY 2006, continued economic uncertainties and a flat market have had an impact on golf demand and associated revenues. The delayed opening of the Laurel Hill Golf Club will also have a negative impact on our revenue projections.
- The Financial Management Plan forecasts a cost recovery amount of 125% in FY 2006 for the golf section. This performance would provide the necessary funding to finance some of the needed improvements within the agency. It is anticipated that, given favorable weather and attendance at the golf courses, these fee adjustments will help to achieve the cost recovery goal.

- Demand is highest at Twin Lakes where Prime Time Weekend and Holiday tee times for both golf courses are booked well in advance of play. In addition, the initial demand and golfer response at Laurel Hill Golf club has been very positive. An important component of the Financial Management Plan growth strategy was the addition of the Laurel Hill Golf Club in calendar 2005. A 2002 market analysis conducted by Economic Research Associates (ERA) indicated an underserved market niche between the existing low-end and moderate public golf offerings and the high-end daily fee courses. To capitalize on the existing opportunity, Laurel Hill was planned to provide a higher level of clubhouse amenities, as well as an upgraded and consistent on-course experience than is available at other Park Authority courses. This year's fee proposal maintains the recommended price point, consistent with the ERA recommendation, at the bottom of the market's high-end daily fee facilities and above the price point occupied by Twin Lakes to account for the step-up in quality that will be afforded at Laurel Hill.
- Memberships are a critical part of high end golf course operations, and provide an effective, customer friendly means to build revenue and loyalty. Initial response to the Laurel Hill membership drive has been extremely positive. It is anticipated that our goal for of 60 members will be attained within the first 2 months. Recognizing this initial success it is important to allow for a pricing strategy that is consistent with the industry while still allowing for the required public and Board review. Staff is recommending authorization for a membership increase of up to 25% (\$950). This is necessary since Laurel Hill Golf Club memberships are annual memberships and the current membership fees will be in place until the end of 2006.

Proposed Golf Fee Adjustments

Based on the conditions described above, proposed golf fee adjustments for F Y 2006 are as follows.

1. Prime Time Greens Fees. Staff is recommending an increase at all courses that will continue to maintain their market positioning.

	Prime Time Greens Fees			
	9 Holes		18-Holes	
	CURRENT FEE	PROPOSED FEE	CURRENT FEE	PROPOSED FEE
Burke Lake	\$16	Unchanged	\$22	\$23
Jefferson	\$18	\$19	\$30	Unchanged
Oak Marr	\$16	\$17	\$22	\$23
Pinecrest	\$18	\$19	\$30	Unchanged
Greendale	\$21	Unchanged	\$32	\$33
Twin Lakes – Oaks & Lakes	\$27	Unchanged	\$41	\$45

2. Non-Prime Time Greens Fees. Staff is recommending the following selected changes to non-prime time greens fees.

Non-Prime Time Greens Fees				
	9 Holes		18-Holes	
	CURRENT FEE	PROPOSED FEE	CURRENT FEE	PROPOSED FEE
Burke Lake	\$13	\$14	\$19	\$20
Jefferson	\$15	\$16	\$25	Unchanged
Oak Marr	\$13	\$14	\$19	\$20
Pinecrest	\$15	\$16	\$25	Unchanged
Greendale	\$17	Unchanged	\$26	\$27
Twin Lakes – Oaks and Lakes	\$21	Unchanged	\$32	\$35

3. Laurel Hill Golf Club. The following fine tuning of the Laurel Hill Golf Club fee schedule is recommended based on experience gained from initial operation. Adjustment in prime season twilight times will maintain a consistent policy with similar operations. Creation of an after 4 p.m. 9 hole rate during prime season will establish a family friendly policy, address demand being expressed at the site and provide a means for stimulating play later in the day. Eliminating the \$10 greens fee discount for walkers will protect pace-of-play standards, a critical competitive factor in Laurel Hill's segment of the golf market. Impact on golfers will be minimal – between 5 -10% are currently walking. However, even a minimal number of walkers can significantly slow pace-of-play, given the course layout and challenging terrain. Walking will still be allowed, although there will be no financial incentive for doing so, which will encourage riding and maintain Laurel Hill's stated commitment to favorable pace-of-play.

Laurel Hill Golf Club		
	CURRENT	PROPOSED
Twilight hours changes:		
Prime Season (Weekdays, Weekends/Holidays)	1:00 p.m.	2:00 p.m.
	CURRENT FEE	PROPOSED FEE
18 Hole Greens Fee Walking Discount	\$10	Eliminate
9 Hole Greens Fee, Prime Season, after 4:00 p.m.		
Weekdays	-----	\$ 34
Weekends/Holidays	-----	\$ 44

4. Laurel Hill Golf Club Membership Fees. Golf memberships are sold annually for a calendar year. Membership rates are typically set in the late fall for implementation in January, which makes this fee category out-of-cycle with the Park Authority's fee regular fee approval process. Staff is recommending authorization for a calendar 2007 membership increase of up to 25% (\$950) with staff notifying the Board of the actual fee increase to be implemented in October 2006. Membership fees currently in effect will be in place until the end of 2006. Any rate increase would go into effect in January 2007.

5. Power Carts. Staff is recommending a small increase to the 18-hole and 2nd-9 rate at Greendale and Twin Lakes. This increase will help to offset the rising fuel and electricity costs associated with these large cart fleets.

	Power Cart Rentals	
	CURRENT FEE	PROPOSED FEE
<u>Greendale:</u>		
2 nd 9 Holes	\$8	\$9
18 Holes	\$24	\$25
<u>Twin Lakes:</u>		
2 nd 9 Holes	\$9	\$10
18 Holes	\$27	\$28

6. Driving Range buckets. Staff is recommending increases to large, jumbo and super buckets, but not small bucket purchases. This strategy will allow us to remain competitive, while improving our ability to cover rising costs.

	Driving Range Fees	
	Burke Lake Golf Center & Oak Marr Golf Complex	
	CURRENT FEE	PROPOSED FEE
Small Bucket	\$ 6	Unchanged
Large Bucket	\$ 9	\$ 10
Jumbo Bucket	\$12	\$13
Super Bucket	\$15	\$16
	Twin Lakes & Laurel Hill	
	CURRENT FEE	PROPOSED FEE
Small Bucket	\$ 6	Unchanged
Large Bucket	\$ 9	\$ 10

7. Pull Cart rentals. The following fee increase is proposed for pull carts at all facilities:

	Pull Cart Rentals	
	CURRENT FEE	PROPOSED FEE
	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.50

Lakefront Parks

Current Situation

- Lake Fairfax Park and Campground continues to be a popular destination for family camping and people visiting the area. The campground operations at both Lake Fairfax and Burke Lake Park performed extremely well over FY 2005 and into the first quarter of 2006. Camping revenues at Burke Lake increased 34% in FY 2005 and camping revenues at Lake Fairfax Park increased 21%. These local campgrounds continued to experience strong visitation greatly benefiting from their close proximity to the nation's capital.
- The current situation in the Park Revenue Fund necessitates that the lakefront park sites strengthen their cost recovery effort. This year's fee recommendations will continue to address those areas that have the potential to improve the profitability of these sites.
- A market survey of area campgrounds identified only a few areas where camping fees have the potential for increases. Significant increases were approved two years ago and as a result camping revenues increased in FY 2005 by 24%. Park Authority campground facilities continue to have a very good reputation, and given their close proximity to the nation's capital, the proposed fee increase is warranted.
- Lake Fairfax Park's marina is currently undergoing an extensive renovation that will vastly increase customer's enjoyment and visitation to this area. To a lesser degree, dredging activities at Lake Accotink Park will begin to restore the vitality of the marina operation at that park. Recommended fee increases in marina operations will be warranted as our customers begin to see these improvements.
- Demand remains steady at the Water Mine with revenues growing more than 3% annually over the last several years. Water Mine admission fees were static for the first six years of operation. Subsequent fee adjustments were approved in 2002 and 2004 to align this operation with the agency's policy of small, more regular fee increases where market conditions permit. A scheduled fee adjustment in 2006 would fit the cycle established in 2002. Analysis of comparables indicates that a minor adjustment in the primary daily fee admission categories is supportable.

Proposed Lakefront Fee Adjustments

Based on the conditions described above, proposed lakefront fee adjustments for FY 2006 are as follows:

1. Campsite rental – Burke Lake. Staff recommends increasing campsite rental fees at Burke Lake as shown below.

Campsite Rental – Burke Lake		
	CURRENT FEE	PROPOSED FEE
Per night, per site	\$ 20.00	\$ 25.00

2. Camping-Wilderness. Staff recommends increasing wilderness camping fees at both Burke Lake and Lake Fairfax as shown below.

Wilderness Camping – Burke Lake, Lake Fairfax		
	CURRENT FEE	PROPOSED FEE
Per person, per night	\$ 2.00	\$ 3.00

3. Entrance Fees – Burke Lake. Staff recommends increasing the passenger vehicle/motorcycle entrance fee at Burke Lake Park as shown below and merging this fee with the van fee to simplify the fee schedule. This fee applies only to non-Fairfax County residents and only during weekends and holidays, mid April-mid September.

Entrance Fee – Burke Lake		
	CURRENT FEE	PROPOSED FEE
Passenger vehicles, motorcycles & vans*	\$ 6.00	\$ 8.00

*Note: the current van fee is already \$8.00 and would remain unchanged.

4. Excursion Boat Rides. Staff recommends increases in excursion boat fees at Lake Accotink Park and Lake Fairfax Park as shown below.

Excursion Boat Rides – Lake Fairfax, Lake Accotink		
	CURRENT FEE	PROPOSED FEE
Per Person	\$ 1.00	----
Child*	----	\$ 1.50
Adult	----	\$ 2.00

*12 years of age or younger.

5. Pedal Boat Rentals. Staff recommends pedal boat rental fees at Lake Accotink Park and Lake Fairfax Park as shown below.

Pedal Boat Rentals – Lake Fairfax, Lake Accotink		
	CURRENT FEE	PROPOSED FEE
Half hour rental	\$ 5.00	\$ 6.00
Hourly rental	\$ 8.00	\$10.00

6. Rowboat Rentals. Staff recommends rowboat rental fee increases at Lake Accotink and Burke Lake Park as shown below.

Row Boat Rentals – Burke Lake		
	CURRENT FEE	PROPOSED FEE
Half day rental	\$ 7.50	\$ 9.50*
Full day rental	\$13.00	\$15.00*

*Fee includes personal floatation device.

Row Boat Rentals – Lake Accotink		
	CURRENT FEE	PROPOSED FEE
Hourly rental	\$ 5.00	\$ 6.00
Half day rental	\$ 7.00	\$ 9.50
Full day rental	\$12.00	\$15.00

7. Miniature Golf. Staff recommends an increase in miniature golf fees at Lake Accotink Park as shown below.

Miniature Golf – Lake Accotink		
	CURRENT FEE	PROPOSED FEE
Adults	\$ 3.50	\$ 4.00
Juniors/Seniors	\$ 2.50	\$ 3.00
Second 9-holes	\$ 1.50	\$ 2.00

8. Water Mine – Daily Admission and Group Rate. Staff recommends an increase in the daily admission fee categories and group rate at the Water Mine as shown below.

Water Mine – Daily Admission and Group Rate		
	CURRENT FEE	PROPOSED FEE
<u>Daily Admission</u>		
Over 48" Tall	\$ 12.00	\$ 13.00
Under 48" Tall	\$ 10.00	\$ 11.00
Chaperone Fee	\$ 6.00	\$ 7.00
After 5 p.m.	\$ 7.00	\$ 8.00
Group Rate-Per Individual	\$ 8.00	\$ 9.00

Ellmore Farm Center

Current Situation

- In February 2001, the Fairfax County Park Authority purchased the old Ellmore Farm, a five acre parcel of land contiguous to Frying Pan Park, to preserve the land's historic structures, landscape and view sheds and to fulfill unmet site needs. With input from a citizen task force and staff, a Master Plan Revision for Frying Pan Park incorporating the newly acquired acreage was developed and approved by the Park Authority Board on September 25, 2002. Since acquisition, the Ellmore Farm Center has been renovated. The new Ellmore Farm Center opened during the summer of 2005. A pilot program was implemented for public rental fees of the facility with the intention of solidifying rates through the 2006 Fee Schedule process.
- The facility will accommodate office space, house collections storage, and eventually provide a dedicated area for farm museum exhibits. The facility also offers a large and a small multi-use space that will be scheduled by staff. Support from Fund 001 has not been made available for operation of these facilities, therefore staff has proposed a Fund 170 based program plan offering fee-based programs and activities on a break-even basis. Expanded programs will include instructor led classes such as swing and ballroom dancing, knitting, drama, and nature classes that will be offered through Parktakes.
- In comparing rental spaces and fees, the rooms at Ellmore were found to more closely match rooms available at RECenters, therefore fees were drawn from the RECenter model.

Proposed Fees

The proposed pilot rental rates were developed through price and space comparisons to Park Authority and non-Park Authority facilities.

Ellmore Farm Center Auditorium:

4 hour Rental	\$280
Extra Hour	\$ 70
Security Deposit	\$100
Alcoholic Beverage Permit	\$100

Meeting Room

2 hour Rental	\$ 80
Extra Hour	\$ 40
Security Deposit	\$ 50
Alcoholic Beverage Permit	\$100

Kayak Rentals- Riverbend Park

Current Situation

- Riverbend Park has been offering kayak classes for the general public for approximately four years. The classes have become so popular that the demand for them has far exceeded what our staff can accommodate. For the last several years many visitors have been asking staff if they could rent the kayaks. Kayaking is a sport that is growing in popularity, and Riverbend Park is the only FCPA site that offers this activity to the public.
- Currently there are no FCPA kayak rental facilities. Pohick Bay Regional Park provides kayak rentals. It's location on the Potomac estuary does not meet the public's demand for white water or swift water kayaking, however. Spring River Outfitters, another local provider, lacks a shoreline location making it difficult for them to meet demand as well.
- Staff proposes operations to run May through October. Initially, potential renters will be required to call ahead in order to ensure availability. The program will include half day and full day rentals. Hourly rental rates on the Potomac are not practical so will not be offered.
- Renting kayaks will require minimal staff time. Most weekend days are expected to have anywhere from 4-8 rentals. Many kayakers sign up for programs as couples, and it is anticipated this pattern to be true of rentals as well.
- Proposed rates are slightly less expensive than the two comparable non-FCPA sites, but are similar to current canoe rental fees at Lake Accotink (\$5 per hour.) This allows the FCPA to be slightly more competitive with the non-FCPA sites, while not competing with its own organizational fees.

Proposed Kayak Rental Fees

	<u>Half Day Rental*¹</u>	<u>Full Day Rental*²</u>
Kayak Rental	\$15	\$25

*Rental fees include paddle, helmet and flotation device.

¹ Half Day Rental is up to 3 hours

² Full Day Rental is for 3-6 hours

Rowboat Rentals - Riverbend Park

Current Situation

- Rowboat Rental fees currently exist at both Burke Lake and Lake Accotink Parks. Currently there is no boat rental facility in Fairfax County on the Potomac River above Great Falls, however public demand for this service is high. Riverbend staff would like to offer this service utilizing the Enterprise Fund Initiative. It is requested that the fees proposed here be adopted so that the schedule is in place once the boats and other necessary equipment are acquired.
- Staff proposes that the fees be the same as the proposed kayak rental fees.
- The proposed fees are higher than at Burke Lake and Lake Accotink Parks due to additional wear and tear on boats used in a river from rocks and rougher terrain. These additional costs were factored in to the proposed rates.

Proposed fee – Rowboat Rental – Riverbend Park

	<u>Half Day Rental*¹</u>	<u>Full Day Rental*²</u>
Rowboat Rental	\$15	\$25

*Rental fees include oars, and life preservers

¹ Half Day Rental is up to 3 hours

² Full Day Rental is for 3+ hours

Rental of Nature Center - Riverbend Park

Current Situation

- A rental fee for the Nature Center at Riverbend was established in the FY 2004 Fee Schedule process. Unfortunately since the fee was established there has been no success in renting the Nature Center to private groups. It is felt that the current fees and advertised availability is too restrictive. Currently the fee schedule identifies a fee for 4 hour minimum rentals with the facility as being available only on Tuesday, Saturday, Sunday 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. It is recommended that the minimum time for a rental be reduced as well as to identify changes in the facility availability.

Proposed fee – Nature Center – Riverbend

	<u>Hourly Rental Fee</u>	<u>Security Deposit</u>
Private Group Rental	\$75	\$100

The facility will be available everyday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. No alcoholic beverages, no kitchen facility available.

Board Agenda Item
January 25, 2006

ACTION - 2

Contract Award – Design Services for “The Observatory Park” at The Turner Farm (Dranesville District)

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Director recommends approval of the contract award to Technology WorX, L.L.C of Ashburn, Virginia in an amount not to exceed \$189,542, for design of The Turner Farm. In addition, the Director recommends reserving \$18,954 or ten (10) percent of the contract award for contract contingency, and \$11,373 or six (6) percent of the contract award for administrative costs, as presented to and reviewed by the Planning and Development Committee on January 11, 2006.

ACTION - 3

Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grants Program Request – McLean Youth Soccer – Lewinsville Park (Dranesville District).

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Director recommends approval of a Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grants Program request from McLean Youth Soccer in the amount of \$10,000 for the renovation of the athletic field lighting system for the synthetic rectangle field at Lewinsville Park, as presented to the Planning and Development Committee on January 11, 2006.

Board Agenda Item
January 25, 2006

ACTION - 4

Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grants Program Request – Brogue Charities, Inc. – Turner Farm Park (Dranesville District).

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Director recommends approval of a Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grants Program request from Brogue Charities, Inc. in the amount of \$9,000 for developing the equestrian cross-country course at Turner Farm Park, as presented to and reviewed by the Planning and Development Committee on January 11, 2006.

Board Agenda Item
January 25, 2006

ACTION - 5

Approval - Resolution by the Fairfax County Park Authority to Oppose House Bill 1368, Home Serenity and Tranquility Act

ISSUE:

Approval of a Resolution to oppose House Bill 1368, Home Serenity and Tranquility Act, which is currently before the Virginia General Assembly, and which would have significant impact on the use of athletic fields and other park facilities.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Director recommends adoption of the Resolution to oppose House Bill 1368, Home Serenity and Tranquility Act.

If approved, this resolution will be submitted to Delegate Hull; the Fairfax County Delegation to the Virginia General Assembly; Board of Supervisors; and Sue Mittereder, Legislative Director for Fairfax County Government.

TIMING:

Approval is requested on January 25, 2006.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 1368 was proposed by Delegate Hull, and is currently being considered by the Virginia General Assembly. This legislation would create the Home Serenity and Tranquility Act, which prohibits the operation on an athletic field owned or operated by a public or private entity of any event (i) before the hour of eight o'clock in the morning, (ii) after the hour of six o'clock in the evening, or (iii) on Sunday without the unanimous written consent of the affected homeowners.

The legislation defines "affected homeowner" as any person owning or leasing a home that is located within 65 yards of any athletic field, and defines an "athletic field" as any area in which competitive sports are played, including swimming pools, regardless of whether such areas are owned or operated by public or private entities.

It is anticipated that passage of this bill would be detrimental to community use of park athletic fields and other park facilities in Fairfax County.

Board Agenda Item
January 25, 2006

FISCAL IMPACT:
None

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: House Bill 1368

Attachment 2: Resolution of Fairfax County Park Authority Opposing House Bill 1368,
Home Serenity and Tranquility Act

STAFF:

Michael A. Kane, Director

Timothy K. White, Chief Operating Officer

Elisa Lueck, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Policy Development

060815336

HOUSE BILL NO. 1368

Offered January 11, 2006

Prefiled January 11, 2006

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 55 a chapter numbered 32, consisting of sections numbered [55-552](#) through [55-554](#), relating to the Home Serenity and Tranquility Act; civil penalty.

Patron-- Hull (By Request)

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Title 55 a chapter numbered 32, consisting of sections numbered [55-552](#) through [55-554](#) as follows:

*CHAPTER 32.
HOME SERENITY AND TRANQUILITY ACT.*

§ [55-552](#). *Definitions.*

As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Affected homeowner" means any person owning or leasing a home that is located within 65 yards of any athletic field.

"Athletic field" means any area in which competitive sports are played, including swimming pools, regardless of whether such areas are owned or operated by public or private entities.

"Home" means a structure or part of a structure that is used as a home or residence by one or more persons who maintain a household, including, but not limited to, a manufactured home.

"Homeowner" means one or more persons, jointly or severally, in whom is vested:

- 1. All or part of the legal title to the property, or*
- 2. All or part of the beneficial ownership and a right to present use and enjoyment of the premises, and the term includes a mortgagee in possession.*

§ [55-553](#). *Hours of operation; notice; consent of homeowners; compliance with local ordinance.*

A. No person owning or operating an athletic field shall operate or allow to be operated on such field any event (i) before the hour of eight o'clock in the morning, (ii) after the hour of six o'clock

in the evening, or (iii) on Sunday without the unanimous written consent of the affected homeowners.

B. Each year, the owner or operator of an athletic field shall notify any affected homeowner of his intent to conduct or to allow to be conducted any event on an athletic field during the times prohibited by subsection A. Upon receipt of such notice, the affected homeowners shall, within 15 calendar days, make a written response to the owner or operator of the athletic field. Such response may be a denial of consent, consent to all such events, or consent for a specific period of time or for specified event. Failure to respond shall be deemed consent to all such events.

C. The owner or operator of an athletic field shall keep records of the notice and any response by an affected homeowner as required by subsection B for two years. Such records shall be available for public inspection.

D. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any event held at an athletic field shall comply with all applicable state and local ordinances governing noise and nuisance.

§ [55-554](#). Penalties; enforcement.

A. Any owner or operator of an athletic field that violates the provision of subsection A of § [55-553](#) shall be subject to a civil penalty of no more than \$500 for the first violation. For any subsequent violation, such person shall be subject to a civil penalty of \$750, which amount shall be paid into the State Literary Fund.

B. Any homeowner aggrieved by a violation of subsection A of § [55-553](#) may proceed to enforce his rights under this chapter by filing an action for an injunction, supported by an affidavit showing good cause, addressed to the general district court or the court of record of the county or city where the athletic field is located. If the court finds a violation, the petitioner shall be entitled to recover all costs and attorney fees.

**RESOLUTION OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY
OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 1368, HOME SERENITY AND TRANQUILITY ACT**

Whereas, House Bill 1368 is currently being considered by the General Assembly; and

Whereas, House Bill 1368 creates the Home Serenity and Tranquility Act, which prohibits the operation on an athletic field owned or operated by a public or private entity of any event (i) before the hour of eight o'clock in the morning, (ii) after the hour of six o'clock in the evening, or (iii) on Sunday without the unanimous written consent of the affected homeowners; and

Whereas, House Bill 1368 defines "affected homeowner" as any person owning or leasing a home that is located within 65 yards of any athletic field; and

Whereas, "athletic field" is defined as any area in which competitive sports are played, including swimming pools, regardless of whether such areas are owned or operated by public or private entities; and

Whereas, it is anticipated that passage of this bill would be detrimental to community use of park athletic fields and other park facilities in Fairfax County; and

Whereas, approximately 69% of community use of a lit field occurs on Sundays and after 6:00 pm Monday through Saturday; and

Whereas, approximately 47% of community use of an unlit field occurs on Sundays and after 6:00 pm Monday through Saturday; and

Whereas, this bill would affect high school sports, since much of their field use occurs after 6:00 pm on weekdays; and

Whereas, with enactment of this legislation, approximately 10,000 community use hours will no longer be available to be used by community athletic organizations each week, which is roughly the equivalent of taking 286 athletic fields out of the county's inventory; and

Whereas, if this bill were to be passed, the county would not be able to allocate the minimum number of practice and game hours as required by the Field Allocation Policy to any athletic group in Fairfax County; and

Whereas, the significant impacts to County athletic programs is unacceptable to the organizations that value the importance of youth sports programs and their positive impact on the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as evidenced by the endorsement of the Chairman of the Fairfax County Park Authority below, that the Park Authority expresses opposition to House Bill 1368, Home Serenity and Tranquility Act.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Fairfax County Park Authority Board
at its meeting on January 25, 2006.

FAIRFAX COUNTY
PARK AUTHORITY

BY: _____
Harold L. Strickland, Chairman

Board Agenda Item
January 25, 2006

INFORMATION - 1

Early Season Use of Park Authority Athletic Fields by Fairfax County Public Schools

The Fairfax County Public Schools are increasingly challenged to provide athletic fields for its high school sports program. The Park Authority works cooperatively with the Public Schools by providing access to park fields to meet needs that cannot be addressed at school sites.

The Fairfax County Public Schools' athletic schedule follows dates set by the Virginia High School League. Because these dates are inconsistent with the Park Authority Field Use Policy 402, the Park Authority and the Public Schools entered into a *Facilities Use Agreement* to support school athletics. Per this agreement, the Public Schools submit an annual request for use of Park Authority athletic fields. Staff reviews the request and approves use as stipulated in the *Facilities Use Agreement*.

The staff approval of the Schools' request for use of Park Authority athletic fields in 2006 is attached. The 2006 approval is identical to 2005 except for the addition of Centreville High School's use of rectangular field 8 at Braddock Park. This approval is for a total of nineteen (19) fields.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Memorandum to Michael A. Kane from Paul M. Jansen, Director of Student Activities and Athletic Programs dated November 10, 2005
RE: FCPS Use of Park Authority Facilities

Attachment 2: Memorandum to Paul Jansen, Director of Student Activities from the Director of the Fairfax County Park Authority dated January 25, 2006
RE: High School Use of Park Authority Fields for 2006.

STAFF:

Michael A. Kane, Director

Timothy K. White, Chief Operating Officer

Dan Sutherland, Manager, Grounds Management Branch



**FAIRFAX COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Student Activities and Athletic Programs
Burkholder Administrative Center
10700 Page Avenue
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

November 10, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: Michael A. Kane
FROM: Paul M. Jansen *Paul M. Jansen*
SUBJECT: FCPS Use of Park Authority Facilities

This memorandum is the annual request for an exception to Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) policy that will permit certain Fairfax County High Schools (FCPS) to use park authority sites prior to the established spring usage date.

Due to the growth of the FCPS athletic program, it is necessary to accommodate student needs by using feeder school facilities and Fairfax County Park Authority fields for practices and contests. FCPS athletic programs are driven by a statewide athletic schedule, which the school system has no control over, and the school system has a limited ability to transport athletes to off campus practice sites.

Wherever practical, schools make every attempt to schedule teams at FCPS sites and nonpark locations. Many variables are weighted when searching for and in selecting fields including available FCPS on-campus and off campus space appropriate for athletic activity, school renovation, placement of modular classrooms and school construction as well as availability of certified athletic trainers, coaches and transportation. Other variables include the use of FCPS facilities by School Age Child Care Program (SACC), existing Community and Recreation Services programs and other after school programs. Only when a demonstrated need is presented is it necessary to use park facilities contiguous to schools and where no other options exist. Please see addendum #3 for additional information.

This certifies that to the best of our knowledge, the following schools have met the criteria for Fairfax County Park Authority exception and should be granted annual exceptions per the FCPS/FCPA Facilities Use Agreement (referred to as the "Agreement"). Please refer to addendum #1 for specific information as required by the Agreement.

<u>School</u>	<u>Park</u>	<u>Fields</u>
Annandale High School	Ossian Hall Park	Two 60ft softball fields
Lake Braddock Secondary	Lake Braddock Park	Two rectangular fields
Lee High School	Lee Park	Two 60ft softball fields/one rectangular
Mt. Vernon High School	George Washington Park	Two rectangular fields
South Lakes High School	South Lakes Drive Park	One rectangular field
J.E.B. Stuart High School	Stuart Park	Two 60ft softball fields

Since 1994, there has been a general agreement that these exceptions to policy at park and school complexes pursue the best interest of Fairfax County resources. This list is fluid since there are certain situations when the school system needs temporary practice or game sites, e.g., building renovations, transportation issues, etc. Although these situations are infrequent, they do occur.

As of today, situations continue to exist at seven additional schools not covered in the original "Facility Use Agreement." For the past six years, permission has been sought from FCPA for exceptions to policy and subsequently approved. There has been little or no change in the aforementioned schools' situations; therefore, we are requesting the identical field usage for spring 2006. Again, this certifies, to the best of our knowledge, that the following schools have met the spirit and intent of the Agreement.

The fields that FCPS are seeking additional exceptions for are listed below. Because of the growth of the FCPS athletic program and dire transportation issues (lack of bus drivers), the above-mentioned requests will most likely be an ongoing "request for exception" to the park authority spring usage policy.

- **Centreville High School** Braddock Park rectangular field. The eight teams that need rectangular field space can not be accommodated on the fields available at the school. Neighboring elementary schools are not available due to SACC, after-school programs and additional modular classrooms. Further details can be provided upon request.
- **Chantilly High School** use of two rectangular fields at Greenbriar Park (fields 4 and 5); one 60' ball diamond (field 3); and one 90' ball diamond (field 1).
- **Chantilly High School** – has requested the use of 2 rectangular fields at Stringfellow Park for boys' soccer practice. In the past Chantilly boys and girls soccer programs have shared two fields at Greenbriar Park. Given the size and athleticism it is not safe or practical to have two high school age teams on one field.
- **Langley High School** - use of two rectangular fields at Langley Forks Park (fields 1 and 4).
- **Madison High School** – has requested the use of 2 rectangular fields at Nottaway Park for soccer. In the past teams have used Thoreau Middle School and Cunningham Park. This is no longer practical due to interruptions, safety issues between the lacrosse and the little league baseball programs and school construction. The configuration of the fields for lacrosse necessitates tying up the outfields of all the softball fields. The interaction of a high school lacrosse ball with youth softball and baseball teams is dangerous.
- **McLean High School** - use of two rectangular fields at Lewinsville Park (fields 3 and 4). These fields are within walking distance and require no funding for transportation.
- **Robinson Secondary** – use of one rectangular field at Lakeside Park for soccer team practice. The Lakeside Park would be used by both boys' and girls' soccer teams on a two-week rotational basis.

Please refer to addendum #2 for specific information regarding the request for these additional fields as required by the Facilities Use Agreement.

I would like to request that these six schools be added to the established list of field exceptions contained in the Facilities Use Agreement. Since the field situations at these six high schools will most likely not change, the inclusion on the list will assist in future planning efforts and avoid confusion with the community, school staff, and Community and Recreation Services scheduling efforts. Please take this under advisement.

Also at your earliest convenience, I would like the opportunity to further evaluate FCPS use of park facilities for cross county and use of tennis courts as well as facility upgrades at Stuart Park for girls' softball. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please contact me at 703-246-3824.

PMJ/sc

Attachments

cc: Patricia Franckewitz
Karen Avvisato
Timothy White
Dan Sutherland

2006 FCPS Field Use Request

Addendum #1

Ongoing Request Per "Facilities Use Agreement", 6/1/00					
High School	Park	Fields	Dates*	Times	Sport
Annandale	Ossian Hall	2 - 60' softball fields	2/20 thru 2/24 2/27 thru 3/3 3/6 thru 3/10 3/13 thru 3/17 3/20 thru 3/24 3/27 thru 3/31	M-F 3pm - 5:30pm Sat 9am - 12pm	Softball
Lake Braddock Secondary	Lake Braddock Park	2 rectangular fields	2/20 thru 2/24 2/27 thru 3/3 3/6 thru 3/10 3/13 thru 3/17 3/20 thru 3/24 3/27 thru 3/31	M-F 3pm - 5:30pm	Girls'/Boys' Soccer
Lee	Lee Park	2 - 60' softball fields 1 - Rectangular	2/20 thru 2/24 2/27 thru 3/3 3/6 thru 3/10 3/13 thru 3/17 3/20 thru 3/24 3/27 thru 3/31	M-F 3pm - 5:30pm Sat 9am - 12 pm	Softball/Girls' Soccer
Mt. Vernon	GW Park	2 rectangular fields	2/20 thru 2/24 2/27 thru 3/3 3/6 thru 3/10 3/13 thru 3/17 3/20 thru 3/24 3/27 thru 3/31	M-F 3pm - 5:30pm Sat 9am - 12pm	Girls' Soccer
South Lakes	South Lakes Drive Park	1 rectangular field	2/20 thru 2/24 2/27 thru 3/3 3/6 thru 3/10 3/13 thru 3/17 3/20 thru 3/24 3/27 thru 3/31	M-F 3pm - 5:30pm	Girls' Soccer
Stuart	Stuart Park	2 - 60' softball fields	2/20 thru 2/24 2/27 thru 3/3 3/6 thru 3/10 3/13 thru 3/17 3/20 thru 3/24 3/27 thru 3/31	M-F 3:30 - 5:30 pm Sat 9am - 12pm	Softball

NOTES:

1. The VHSL spring season runs from February 20 - June 4, 2006
2. The dates listed in the chart above only reflect early request dates. Fields will be needed through June 9, 2006.
3. Tryout and pre-season activities begin Monday, February 20 and conclude with the first contests, March 13. With the beginning of the regular season there should be a significant reduction in the actual use of the fields.

2006 Additional Fields Request					
High School	Park	Field	Dates*	Time	Sport
Centreville	Braddock Park	1 - rectangular field	2/20 thru 2/24 2/27 thru 3/3 3/6 thru 3/10 3/13 thru 3/17 3/20 thru 3/24 3/27 thru 3/31	M-F 3pm - 5:30pm	Soccer
Chantilly	Greenbriar Park	2- rectangular fields (#4 & #5) 1-90' ball diamond (field #1)	2/20 thru 2/24 2/27 thru 3/3 3/6 thru 3/10 3/13 thru 3/17 3/20 thru 3/24 3/27 thru 3/31	M-F 3pm - 5:30pm	Baseball Boys'/Girls' Soccer
Chantilly	Stringfellow	2 rectangular fields	2/20 thru 2/24 2/27 thru 3/3 3/6 thru 3/10 3/13 thru 3/17 3/20 thru 3/24 3/27 thru 3/31	M-F 3pm - 5:30pm	Boys'/Girls' Soccer Rotation
Langley	Langley Parks Ford	2 rectangular fields #1 and #4	2/20 thru 2/24 2/27 thru 3/3 3/6 thru 3/10 3/13 thru 3/17 3/20 thru 3/24 3/27 thru 3/31	M-F 3 pm - 5:30 pm	Girls' Lacrosse/ Girls' Soccer
Madison	Cunningham Park Elementary School	2 rectangular fields	2/20 thru 2/24 2/27 thru 3/3 3/6 thru 3/10 3/13 thru 3/17 3/20 thru 3/24 3/27 thru 3/31	M-F 3pm - 5:30pm	Lacrosse
McLean	Lewinsville Park	2 rectangular fields (#3 & #4)	2/20 thru 2/24 2/27 thru 3/3 3/6 thru 3/10 3/13 thru 3/17 3/20 thru 3/24 3/27 thru 3/31	M-F 3pm - 5:30 pm	Boys'/Girls' Soccer
Robinson Secondary	Lakeside Park	1 rectangular field	2/20 thru 2/24 2/27 thru 3/3 3/6 thru 3/10 3/13 thru 3/17 3/20 thru 3/24 3/27 thru 3/31	M-F 3pm - 5:30pm	Boys'/Girls' Soccer - Rotation

NOTES:

1. The VHSL spring season runs from February 20 - June 9, 2006
2. The dates listed in the chart above only reflect early request dates. Fields will be needed through June 9, 2006.
3. Tryout and pre-season activities begin Monday, February 21 and conclude with the first contests, March 13. With the beginning of the regular season there should be a significant reduction in the actual use of the fields.

General Information for PA Consideration

- Most elementary schools have after school child-care programs that use fields, some until 6 p.m.
- Most middle schools and many elementary schools are offering after-school programs that incorporate use of fields until 5 p.m.
- Daylight savings time does not permit use of most fields after 5 p.m. until the time change.
- Many community and recreational service (CRS) programs begin at 5:30 p.m. Extending the hours of high school use on some properties will negatively impact CRS.
- FCPS can not provide regular transportation for athletic events until 4:30 p.m. There are a few exceptions.
- FCPS must rely on many non-FCPS personnel to coach. The early availability of these people is compromised by regular jobs with more 9 to 5 work hours.
- Some school field use has been compromised with the expanded use of modular classrooms due to renovations, increased enrollment or change in programs of studies.
- Spring (February 20-June 09, 2006) Virginia High School League (VHSL) activities include:
 - Boys lacrosse-2 or 3 teams
 - Girls lacrosse-2 teams
 - Boys soccer-2 teams
 - Girls soccer-2 teams
 - Baseball-2 teams
 - Softball-2 teams
 - Track and field-one boys and one girls team
 - Tennis-one boys and one girls team
 - Crew-one boys and one girls team

*Most school campuses were built before the inclusion of many of these sport activities and, they are not designed to accommodate the volume of activity.

High School Stadium Use for Practice

- With three exceptions (Westfield H.S., Annandale H.S. and South County Secondary) all our stadium fields have a competition track surrounding the playing field. Most stadium fields are also site of shot put, discuss, pole vault and high jump facilities.
- High school interscholastic track and field teams practice Monday-Friday; expect for some field events; the playing field is not available when the track is in use.
- High school intramural program, marching bands and drill teams also tie up the availability of stadium fields.
- Stadium fields are in use for games M-F beginning in March and concluding in June



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM



TO: Paul Jansen, Director of Student Activities
Fairfax County Public Schools

FROM: Michael A. Kane, Director

DATE: January 25, 2006

SUBJECT: High School Use of Park Authority Fields for 2006

We have completed the review process for high school use of Fairfax County Park Authority athletic fields for the spring 2006 season. Based upon this information and a review of field availability, the following requests have been approved for the Spring of 2006:

High School	Park	Fields	Sport	Dates	Approved Times
Annandale	Ossian Hall	Skinned Diamonds 1 & 2	Softball	2/20/06- 4/7/06	M-F 3 - 5:30 pm Sat. 9am-Noon
Centreville	Braddock	Rectangular Field 8	Boys & Girls Soccer	2/20/06- 4/7/06	M-F 3 - 5:30 pm
Chantilly	Greenbriar	90' Diamond 1	Baseball	2/20/06- 4/7/06	M-F 3 - 5:30 pm
Chantilly	Greenbriar	60' Diamond 3	Softball	2/20/06- 3/24/06	M-F 3 - 5:30 pm
Chantilly	Greenbriar	Rectangular Field 4	Boys & Girls Soccer	2/20/06- 3/24/06	M-F 3 - 5:30 pm
J.E.B. Stuart	J.E.B. Stuart	Skinned Diamonds 1 & 2	Softball	2/20/06- 3/24/06	M-F 3 - 5:30 pm Sat. 9am-Noon
Lake Braddock	Lake Braddock	Rectangular Fields 1 & 2	Boys & Girls Soccer	2/20/06- 3/24/06	M-F 3 - 5:30 pm
Langley	Langley Fork	Rectangular Field 4	Girls Soccer / Lacrosse	2/20/06- 3/24/06	M-F 3 - 5:30 pm
Lee	Lee High	Skinned Diamonds 1 & 2	Softball	2/20/06- 3/24/06	M-F 3 - 5:30 pm Sat. 9am-Noon
Lee	Lee High	Rectangular Field 3	Girls Soccer	2/20/06- 3/24/06	M-F 3 - 5:30 pm Sat. 9am-Noon
McLean	Lewinsville	Rectangular Fields 3 & 4	Boys & Girls Soccer	2/20/06- 4/7/06	M-F 3 - 5:30 pm
Mt. Vernon	George Washington	Rectangular Fields 1 & 2	Girls Soccer	2/20/06- 3/24/06	M-F 3 - 5:30 pm
South Lakes	South Lakes Drive	Rectangular Field 1	Girls Soccer	2/20/06- 3/24/06	M-F 3 - 5:30 pm

Thank you for your responsiveness on this very important issue. Best of luck for a successful 2006 season.

cc: Patricia Franckewitz, Director, Department of Community and Recreation Services
Timothy K. White, Deputy Director
Dan Sutherland, Manager, Grounds Management Branch